(d) As per the provisional April-November, 1999 data the 10 largest exported items and their value is as under:—

(US $ Million)

Items	April-Nov. 1999
Gems & jewellery	4761
Readymade garments	2950
Cotton yarn fabrics	2014
Basic chemicals and pharma	1859
Manufactures of metal	803
Marine products	771
Machinery and instruments	751
Transport equipment	686
Leather and manufactures except Footwear	638
Rubber, glass and lelated products	598

Restriction on Import of American Products

1066. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted Quantitative Restriction (QR) on imports of 1400 American products into the country;

(b) if so, what prompted Government to take such a decision just after the Winter Session was adjourned on 23rd December, 1999;

(c) whether Government are aware that this lifting of QR would endanger India's economic security; and

(d) if so, as to why India has kept it secret and US has exposed it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no lifting of Quantitative Restriction (QR) on 1400 American Products. However, consequent to the ruling and recommendations of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that India was no longer justified in maintaining quantitative restrictions (QRs) on import on balance of payments (BoP) grounds in a dispute filed by the United States of America, India and the USA have signed a bilateral agreement which has determined the reasonable

period of time (RPT) for implementing the above rulings and recommendations. Accordingly, existing QRs on 1429 tariff lines at eight digit level maintained on balance of payments grounds are to be removed by 1st April, 2001.

(b) Following adoption of the Appellate Body and Panel Reports by the DSB on 22nd September, 1999 a reasonable period of time had to be determined for India to implement the rulings and recommendations of the DSB. The RPT can be determined either through arbitration or through bilateral agreement between parties to the dispute. The bilateral agreement has to be reached within 45 days of date of adoption, unless both sides agree to an extension of time period. India and the USA held bilateral discussions during the said period of 45 days but could not arrive at an understanding. Consequently, both sides moved the WTO for extension of this time period a number of times, which was granted. Finally, after prolonged discussions India and the USA reached an agreement on this issue, which was jointly notified, to the WTO on 28th December, 1999.

(c) Since, QRs on these items are still to be lifted, exact impact of removal of QRs on India's economic security cannot be quantified. However, the removal of QRs on 1285 items which has been effected since 1997, did not have any serious implications.

(d) No, Sir, as has been explained in answer to (b) above.

Simplification of Advance Licences

1067. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to make issue of advance lincences easier, the Commerce Ministry has notified standard input output norms for 32 items from the chemical engineering and textile sector;

(b) whether 40 amendments have been made to execute and modify existing input-output norms in consideration of the demands of the export community; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Duty Exemption Scheme under the Export and Import Policy allows import of Duty Free inputs for export production on the basis of